

Bellevue Police Department



Counterfeit Currency

The crime of counterfeiting money is as old as money itself. As long as one is able to exchange money for goods and services, there will be some that are willing to attempt to counterfeit it.

With the face of U.S. currency ever changing, it is important to stay familiar with the high security features used by the United States to thwart counterfeiters. Below are some tips from the U.S. Secret Service on how to detect counterfeit U.S. currency.

In addition the tips listed below, there are several products available to businesses to help employees distinguish between genuine U.S. currency and counterfeit U.S. currency. Some of these products include the following:

- Counterfeit Detector Pens
- Electronic Dollar Authenticators
- Ultraviolet (UV) Counterfeit Detectors

If your business would like training on how to handle counterfeit currency, please contact the Bellevue Police Department at 425-452-6917 and ask to speak to the Crime Prevention Unit, or visit the US Secret Service website at www.secretservice.gov.

How to detect counterfeit money.....notes from the United States Secret Service.

Portrait

The genuine portrait appears lifelike and stands out distinctly from the background. The counterfeit portrait is usually lifeless and flat. Details merge into the background which is often too dark or mottled.



Federal Reserve and Treasury Seals

On a genuine bill, the saw-tooth points of the Federal Reserve and Treasury seals are clear, distinct, and sharp. The counterfeit seals may have uneven, blunt, or broken saw-tooth points.



Border

The fine lines in the border of a genuine bill are clear and unbroken. On the counterfeit, the lines in the outer margin and scrollwork may be blurred and indistinct.



Serial Numbers

Genuine serial numbers have a distinctive style and are evenly spaced. The serial numbers are printed in the same ink color as the Treasury Seal. On a counterfeit, the serial numbers may differ in color or shade of ink from the Treasury seal. The numbers may not be uniformly spaced or aligned.



Paper

Genuine currency paper has tiny red and blue fibers embedded throughout. Often counterfeiters try to simulate these fibers by printing tiny red and blue lines on their paper. Close inspection reveals, however, that on the counterfeit note the lines are printed on the surface, not embedded in the paper. It is illegal to reproduce the distinctive paper used in the manufacturing of United

